

V. REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, applicant's counsel wishes to express his appreciation for the thorough examination of this application by Examiner Swinehart.

In the last Official Action, mailed April 22, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 10-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, by this Amendment, the following actions have been taken. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 10, and the latter claim has been canceled without prejudice. It will be noted that claim 1 has been further amended to provide a clear antecedent basis for the incorporated language. In this regard, the phraseology: "first pivot/fulcrum member, and said second pivot/fulcrum member" has been employed in lieu of "ball" and "socket block," respectively. It is submitted that such amendment to claim 1 has no bearing on patentability because, as recognized by the Examiner, the references being

relied upon, considered singly or collectively, fail to show or even vaguely suggest applicant's unique *outer housing* feature. See also, dependent claim 6.

Similarly, independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the same patentably distinct subject matter of claim 10.

As a result of these actions: parent claim 1, and claims 2-9 and 11-16 dependent therefrom, and parent claim 17, are all believed to avoid the Examiner's rejections and/or objections and should now be allowed.

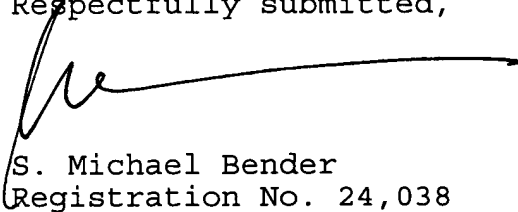
It is further noted with due appreciation that the drawings filed as part and parcel of the present application have been accepted by the Examiner.

All grounds of objection and rejection having been overcome by this Amendment, the application now is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance containing allowed claims 1-9 and 11-17, and such favorable action earnestly is solicited.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues still present in the application and to expedite the prosecution of the application, should the Examiner believe such a telephone conference would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

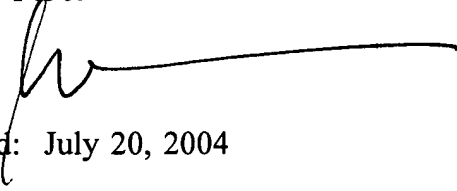


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VI. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.111** is being deposited on July 20, 2004 with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature:



Date Signed: July 20, 2004